BUDGET WEEK SUMTUWITH FISA

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
Majority Caucus • Jim Nussle, Chairman

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Summarizing budgetary issues in legislation scheduled for the House floor

8 July 2002

Week of 8 July 2002

SUSPENSION CALENDAR

- 1) Rathdrum Prairie/Spokane Valley Aquifer Study Act (H.R. 4609).

 This bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to conduct, in conjunction with the States of Idaho and Washington, a study of the Rathdrum Prairie/Spokane Valley Aquifer, a groundwater source for both States. The bill authorizes the appropriation of \$3.5 million to develop a model of the aquifer so that the resource could be better managed. The bill does not increase direct spending spending not subject to appropriations or decrease revenue.
- 2) To Authorize the Secretary of the Interior to Issue Right-of-Way Permits for Natural Gas Pipelines Within the Boundary of Great Smoky Mountains National Park (H.R. 3380).

 This bill provides the authorization indicated by its title. Any permits issued under the bill would be subject to any terms and conditions that the Secretary establishes, including requirements to protect and restore Federal lands during pipeline construction. Fees collected for the right of way permits would be offsetting receipts funds collected by the Government that are recorded as negative budget authority and outlays and credited to separate receipt accounts which the Congressional Budget Office [CBO] estimates would be less than \$500,000 a year.
- 3) Fort Clatsop National Memorial Expansion Act of 2002 (H.R. 2643).

 This bill expands the boundaries of the Fort Clatsop National Memorial in Oregon to include 1,375 acres of additional lands. It would also authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire nonFederal lands within that expanded area. The bill specifies that, with the exception of certain corporately owned lands that could be acquired by condemnation, the Secretary could acquire lands only from willing sellers. The bill also directs the Secretary to study an area known as Station Camp near McGowan, WA, for potential inclusion in the National Park System. CBO estimates the Secretary would need approximately \$9 million in appropriated funds to acquire the specified lands. This bill does not increase direct spending or decrease revenue.
- 4) Airport Streamlining Approval Process Act of 2002 (H.R. 4481).

 This bill authorizes the appropriation of \$2.1 million in fiscal year 2003, and \$4.2 million in each subsequent year, to facilitate environmental reviews for projects that would increase the capacity of congested airports. The bill requires the Secretary of Transportation to coordinate Federal agencies' and airport sponsors' efforts to review the environmental impact of these projects. The

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PLEASE NOTE: This document addresses budgetary issues only. It should not be taken to express support or opposition on any other grounds. A green flag indicates no serious budgetary or budget compliance concerns. A yellow flag indicates moderate or potential problems. A red flag indicates serious problems. Note: Floor schedules and legislative details are subject to change after publication.

This document was prepared by the majority staff of the House Committee on the Budget. It has not been approved by the full committee and may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

measure allows the Federal Aviation Administration to accept funds from airport sponsors to hire additional staff to facilitate environmental review of these projects. These funds can be collected and spent without further appropriation, and are therefore considered direct spending. But any spending will be negligible, and offset by the receipts collected.

5) Armed Services Tax Fairness Act.

This bill had not been finalized at the time of preparation of this *Budget Week*. The bill is expected to change provisions in the tax code related to the tax liability on home sales by those in the Armed Services. Under current law, a house may not have been a primary residence for a period of time due to a transfer for military needs, and hence subject to higher taxation. The bill is expected to cause a small loss in revenue, but well within the revenue levels provided for by the budget resolution currently in force. No other Budget Act points of order are expected to apply.

6) Amending the Temporary Emergency Wildfire Suppression Act (H.R. 5017). This bill requires that any agreement with a foreign country for sharing firefighting personnel must include a provision that personnel furnished are considered, for tort liability purposes, employees of the country receiving the services. It prohibits any agreement unless the foreign country agrees to assume any and all liability for the acts or omissions of American firefighters while fighting fires. The bill will not cause an increase in direct spending or a decrease in revenue.

7) Improper Payments Reduction Act of 2002 (H.R. 4878).

This bill requires the head of each Federal agency to identify and review annually all programs and activities that may be susceptible to significant improper payments. Each agency is required to establish performance targets to reduce improper payments. The bill does not increase direct spending or decrease revenue.

LEGISLATION CONSIDERED UNDER A RULE

Arming Pilots Against Terrorism Act (H.R. 4635). Bill:

Transportation and Infrastructure Committee:

Summary: This bill authorizes flight deck officers to carry firearms and to use force, including lethal

> force, when they judge the security of an aircraft to be at risk. The bill also exempts air carriers from liability, in Federal or State court, for damages that might arise from actions or omissions of the officers defending a plane from violence or piracy. It shields the

officers from liability except in cases of gross negligence or willful misconduct. At the time of the preparation of this Budget Week, no CBO estimate was available. The

Budget Committee does not expect the bill to have any direct spending or revenue

implications.

Budget Act: The legislation is not expected to cause any violations of the Congressional Budget Act.

National Construction Safety Team Act (H.R. 4687). Bill:

Committee: Science

Cost:

This bill authorizes the National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST] in the Summary:

> Department of Commerce to establish National Construction Safety Teams to investigate the structural causes of building failures that result in substantial loss of life. The teams would be deployed within 48 hours of building failures and would issue public reports and

recommendations.

Cost: The bill authorizes the appropriation of \$75 million over 3 years for this purpose. NIST

also would be allowed to accept and spend monetary gifts to support the teams.

This bill does not increase direct spending or decrease revenues, nor will it be subject to **Budget Act:**

any points of order under the Congressional Budget Act.

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Budget Week Page 2 Bill: Tropical Cyclone Inland Forecasting Improvement and Warning System

Development Act of 2002 (H.R. 2486).

Science Committee:

Cost:

This bill requires the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to improve its Summary:

ability to forecast inland flooding through research and modeling. The bill directs the agency to create and implement a flood warning index, train government and other personnel to use new forecasting methodologies, and conduct outreach and education. The bill authorizes the appropriation of \$1.15 million for each of fiscal years 2003 through

2007. Each year, \$250,000 of the authorized amounts is to be available for competitive

grants to develop forecasting models.

This bill does not increase direct spending or decrease revenue, nor will it be subject to **Budget Act:**

any points of order under the Congressional Budget Act.

Bill: Enterprise Integration Act of 2002 (H.R. 2733).

Committee: Science

This bill requires NIST to perform research, provide Summary:

technical assistance, and develop standards related to enterprise integration. Enterprise integration is the effort to facilitate the exchange of data among manufacturing companies

within supply chains.

Cost: The bill authorizes the appropriation of \$47 million over 4 years to carry out these

activities

Budget Act: This bill does not increase direct spending or decrease revenue, nor will it be subject to

any points of order under the Congressional Budget Act.

The House Committee on the Budget

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